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CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria/USSR/China/Germany

DATE DISTR. 7 Feb 1949

SUBJECT Alleged Plan of Soviet Union for  
Asia and Europe

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1. A Military Attache of the Soviet Union was in Shumen, Bulgaria, on 1 December 1948 to attend a conference of approximately 50 Bulgarian Army officers who were there for a course in military strategy. Source was in Shumen on official business. He was introduced to the Military Attache and had a conversation alone with him for more than one hour.

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Comment: Source gives the General's name as Pavlov but he is not certain; it cannot be stated for certain that the man was Major General Alexandre Sergieevitch Pavlov of the USSR Embassy at Sofia. Source describes the Attache as approximately 50 years of age and married. During the recent war the General commanded troops, but now suffers from heart trouble and, for this reason, was assigned to diplomatic work. Pavlov has a son who is now on active duty as an officer in the Soviet Army; the son has two young children.)

2. The Attache, among other things, discussed the probable outcome of the "cold war against the USSR". He stated that at the present time the Soviet Union is fighting a "holding war" in Europe and an aggressive war in the Orient. For economic reasons the area of greatest importance now was China. China must be made "secure". Of course, he continued, Soviet officers are directing the Chinese Communists and the Soviet Union is supplying them with food and ammunition. In the "Soviet Plan A", it is provided that primarily all the railway lines of Northern China must be made "secure". Manchuria must be firmly in the control of the Soviet Union, and the source of food supplies for Japan must be in Soviet control. According to Source, this Plan even goes so far that certain food supplies of the United States will be Soviet controlled. In normal times, Source declared, six million tons of soy bean and other food products are shipped out of this area to the United States. If the Soviet Union controls this area, the remainder of China will wither away economically. Both British and American capital will be so frightened that no further major investments will be made; what assets they have in China will either be drained out or fall into ruin. The people of that area will be forced to turn to the USSR. Furthermore the United States will either have to place another drain on its food resources to feed Japan or Japan will be left dependent on the Soviet Union. If left in the latter position, Japan will rapidly become Communist as she is not self-sufficient.

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3. The United States will not go to war over Berlin - or over any of Eastern Europe. No matter how "tough" the Soviet Union becomes in these matters, the United States will not go to war to save either Eastern Europeans or Germans. If the American Government were to declare war for these reasons, there would be a revolution in the United States. However, the Soviet Union does not plan military expansion in Europe at this time. She has her hands full with the Satellites now. The Soviet problem now is to clean up the Satellites, to make them dependent on the USSR and "safe for Communists". Time is on the side of the USSR. Any economic rehabilitation of Europe through the Marshall Plan is transitory; the United States will, before long, swing back to its traditional policy of taking profits only - not handing out dollars. The United States cannot finance the rearmament of Europe and remain solvent. France, source opined, is basically Communist at least insofar as the workers are concerned.
4. When the time comes, and it will come sooner than later, depending largely on when China is controlled, the USSR will sweep all of Europe within two months. It would take the United States a year to prepare for such an event. Faced with the "accomplished fact" of being swept out of both the Orient and Europe, the United States would not attempt beachheads on the entire world. The USSR is not dependent on trade with the United States but the United States, because of its capitalist system, is dependent on trade with the rest of the world. After a period of armed stalemate, the United States would fail financially.
5. The Attache cited various figures to show that USSR industrial production was "way up in 1948".
6. Throughout the interview, the Attache stressed again and again the fact the United States will do nothing in any way for the countries of Eastern Europe. They can only look to the USSR.
7. Source states that he felt that the Attache was rehearsing a talk which he probably gave later to the Bulgarian officers.

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